

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 4:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:47 p.m., recessed until 4:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. ERNST).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk (Mary Anne Clarkson) read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, in just a few minutes Democrats will have another opportunity to end their weeks-long filibuster of Homeland Security. It will be the first opportunity our friends on the other side have to show where they stand after a Federal judge preliminarily enjoined the administration from moving ahead with actions President Obama himself referred to as "ignoring the law." President Obama said that just over a year ago.

The point is that it is time to allow this Homeland Security funding measure to come to the floor. Democrats say they want the ability to amend DHS funding legislation, but then they keep voting to block their own ability to offer amendments. It doesn't make any sense. So in a few moments we will give our Democratic friends another opportunity to reconsider. They can vote to allow the Senate to debate the Homeland Security funding bill. They can vote to allow the Senate to consider amendments from both sides, and that is what they actually should do. That is what constituents have a right to expect. Let's take up this funding bill and get to work.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, in just a few days—5 to be exact—the Department of Homeland Security will run out of money. This unique entity was established right after 9/11. President Bush believed there were too many agencies trying to take care of the security of this Nation, so he got Congress to work with him, and they came up with 22 entities for the Department of Homeland Security. They have protected our homeland since 9/11, and they have done a good job.

I am very disappointed that the political ploy used by my congressional

Republican leadership to force a shutdown of Homeland Security will only hurt our Nation, but it does make very clear where Republicans stand on fixing our broken immigration system.

Twenty months ago some valiant Senators, Democrats and Republicans, worked together for almost a year. Democrats were led by Senators SCHUMER, DURBIN, BENNET, and MENENDEZ. Republicans were led by Senators MCCAIN, GRAHAM, RUBIO, and FLAKE. They worked night and day. They came up with a bill that they presented to us, Democrats and Republicans, and we worked hard. We had lots of amendments. There was a wonderful debate. It was one of the great days of this body. And we passed it with a bipartisan vote. It was such a good day for the Senate and our country. But now, after 20 months, suddenly people are not interested.

Even Senators FLAKE, GRAHAM, and MCCAIN have stated that we should fund Homeland Security—fund it. We have all kinds of Republican Senators who have said the same thing in the last few days. Senator JOHNSON said it should be fully funded. He said that today.

I don't understand what my Republican friends are trying to do. They want to hold up DHS funding in order to deport DREAMers and their parents. That doesn't make any sense. Their plan is destined to fail. I have said that many times. Republicans are not listening to me, and I understand why, but my Republican colleagues are not listening to a lot of people.

They are not listening to the President of the United States, who has warned them that blocking Homeland Security funding will hurt our ability to respond to these new threats.

Tom Ridge and I came to Washington at the same time in 1982, to the House of Representatives. Here is a man who was valiant in Vietnam. He was a highly decorated soldier. He has had a stunning career in government. He was the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania and the Secretary of Homeland Security. He, along with another Republican Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, who has a great record of his own as a prosecutor and Federal judge, and a Democratic Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, who was a former Governor of the State of Arizona—so three former Secretaries of Homeland Security—two Republicans and one Democrat—have said the Republicans should do this. In fact, here is what they said in a letter Senator MCCONNELL and I received a month ago:

Funding for DHS is used to protect our ports and our borders; to secure our air travel and cargo; to protect the federal government and our nation's information technology and infrastructure from cyber-security attacks; to fund essential law enforcement activities, and to ensure the safety of the president and national leaders. . . . Funding for the entire agency should not be put in jeopardy by the debate about immigration.

That is what the former Secretaries of Homeland Security said. They did not mince words.

In fact, Tom Ridge said yesterday on national TV that the Republicans' plan "irritates the hell out of me. I think it is bad policy. . . . The men and women of Homeland Security deserve better."

Jeh Johnson, who has certainly been as down the middle as anyone could be on this issue, said that to not fund Homeland Security is "unacceptable from a public safety and national security view."

The majority leader and Speaker BOEHNER are not listening. They are obviously not listening to me, they are not listening to the President, and they are not listening to former Homeland Security Secretaries.

They are not even listening to their newspaper—it has been referred to as their newspaper—the Wall Street Journal. The Wall Street Journal said that the Republicans' game of Russian roulette with our homeland security is destined for "a spectacular crack-up." Republicans obviously are not listening to the Wall Street Journal. The Fraternal Order of Police has lambasted the Republican scheme. The Republicans are not listening to the police. The United States Conference of Mayors said: Please don't do that. If you do not fund the Department of Homeland Security, and even if you go with a continuing resolution, it is going to affect our ability to protect our cities. The Governors have said the same thing.

Republicans are not listening to anyone. They are bound and determined to see this doomed plan to the end. This is all because Republicans want to overturn DHS directives that prioritize the deportation of national security threats, convicted felons, and individuals apprehended at the border. It doesn't make sense. The administration sought a stay of the proceedings in Texas, but the trial judge in Texas never ever declared anything the President did as unconstitutional. If you read every word he wrote, the word "unconstitutional" is not written. He said the Administrative Procedure Act was not followed.

The President has the right to determine who is to be deported, and the families of these DREAMers are way down the list. So the President is well within his established constitutional authority and legal process to hear this out. So why would we divert resources from real threats just so Republicans can deport DREAMers, long-term permanent residents, mothers and fathers of U.S. citizen children who pose no security risk? Republicans say they are attacking the President's actions, but they are really attacking families.

I suggest to my Republican colleagues that if they won't listen to me, the President, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Wall Street Journal, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the United States Conference of Mayors, maybe they should at least heed what